

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 STR-07
OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 CTME-00 AF-10 IO-13 /136 W
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P R 301525Z MAY 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2043
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1452

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, OVIP, ETRD, PDEV, CU, SP
SUBJECT: SUAREZ TO VISIT CUBA

1. GRANMA, MAY 29, REPORTS THAT SPANISH PREMIER ADOLFO SUAREZ
WILL BE VISITING CUBA IN SEPTEMBER AT INVITATION OF CUBAN GOVERN-
MENT. FOREIGN MINISTER MARCELINO OREJA WILL BE ACCOMPANYING
SUAREZ.

2. COMMENT: AFTER ONE YEAR HIATUS, SPAINIS COMMITTED TO BEGIN
RECEIVING CUBAN SUGAR AGAIN (A MINIMUM OF 75 THOUSAND TONS) FROM
1978-79 HARVEST. PRICE SPANIARES MUST PAY WILL BE ABOUT 2 CENTS
ABOVE FREE MARKET PRICE. (FYI THIS 75 THOUSAND TONS REPRESENTS
UNDELIVERED PORTION OF 225 THOUSAND TON CONTRACT SIGNED BY SPAIN
IN 1975 AT PRICE OF 23 CENTS PER POUND. PRICE SUBSEQUENTLY WAS
RENEGOTIATED DOWNWARDS TO 17 CENTS PER POUND, THAN 15 CENTS PER
POUND, AND NOW 2 CENTS ABOVE FREE MARKET PRICE PER POUND.
END FYI) SPANIARDS APPARENTLY HAVE ALSO GIVEN CUBANS INDICA-
TION THAT LARGE SUGAR PURCHASES WILL RESUME AFTER 1979.

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3. BESIDES SUGAR, SPANIARDS IMPORT ABOUT 40 - 45 MILLION
DOLLARS WORTH OF CUBAN TOBACCO PRODUCTS EACH YEAR. IN
EXCHANGE FOR SPANISH SUGAR AND TOBACCO PURCHASES, CUBANS
THIS YEAR COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO BUY ABOUT 50 MILLION
DOLLARS WORTH OF SPANISH PRODUCTS ANNUALLY. (FYI WE HAVE
HEARD REPORTS THAT ENASA, PART OF TROUBLED STATE-CONTROLLED

SPANISH HOLDING CONGOLMERATE INI, WILL RECEIVE 18.75
MILLION DOLLAR ORDER FOR 500 PEGASO TOURIST BUSES. END FYI)

4. WE PRESUME SPANISH COMMERCIAL INTERESTS MAY HAVE PLAYED
A ROLE IN SUAREZ' DECISION TO COME TO CUBA. EMBASSY MADRID
COMMENTS ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL ASPECTS OF DECISION WOULD BE
USEFUL. (FYI FELIPE GONZALEZ, WHO HAS VISITED CUBA, RECEIVES
HIGHLY FAVORABLE PRESS ATTENTION. CUBAN POLITBURO
MEMBER MACHADO VENTURA, AT SPANISH CP CONGRESS, RECENTLY
GAVE CARRILLO AND COMPANY LECTURE ON VIRTURES OF "PROLETARIAN
INTERNATIONALISM". WND FYI)

5. NONETHELESS, CUBAN ANNOUNCEMENT NOW THAT SUAREZ HAS
AGREED TO COME TO HAVANA SERVES TO BALANCE AND SOFTEN IMPACT
OF JOINT SHABA ACTION BY BELGIUM, FRANCE AND US AND LAST
WEEK'S NEGATIVE STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRIME
MINISTER TRUDEAU ON CUBA'S ROLE IN AFRICA. VISIT THUS
FORTIFIES CUBANS' CONVICTION THAT WEST IS DIVIDED AND
INCAPABLE OF DECISIVE PRESSURE AGAINST HAVANA. END COMMENT.
GLASSMAN

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